THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

VOL. 15, NO. 3 MAY/JUNE 1995

DNR REPORTS . . .

by Glenn Therres

Migration is now in full swing and I trust your binoculars have been at work looking at all the warblers, vireos, tanagers, and **Baltimore** Orioles returning from their wintering grounds to the south. These Neotropical migrants remind me of Partners in Flight (PIF), so I thought I would update you on the efforts of Maryland Partners in Flight.

Maryland Partners in Flight is the state working group within the international network of PIF. It is a partnership of state, federal, and non-government organizations (including MOS). The mission statement adopted by Maryland PIF is "Maryland Partners in Flight is a partnership of organizations and individuals committed to the conservation of Neotropical migratory landbirds and their habitats through monitoring, management, research, and education."

At our general meeting in October we reviewed the goals, objectives, and tasks outlined in the draft 5-year strategic plan and solicited input from those in attendance. The plan is being finalized and will be available by mid-May. If you are interested in a copy, let me know.

The plan identifies numerous tasks that the four working committees (Education, Management, Monitoring, and Research) are actively pursuing. Let me update you on a few of these actions.

We now have a logo! At the October meeting, the attendees voted for their favorite design and picked a stylized Baltimore Oriole as our logo. A logo is important because it helps provide identity to the partnership. It will be used on all printed materials developed. Hopefully, you have seen it. *[ed. note: See the new MD PIF logo on the back cover of this issue!]*

This year, International Migratory Bird Day is May 13. The Education Committee has worked hard at promoting this very important day. An information packet was mailed to nearly 300 interested individuals, nature centers, and parks encouraging them to organize special events to celebrate the return of our Neotropical migrants and to educate their community about the problems facing these birds.

As part of International Migratory Bird Day, Maryland PIF is sponsoring a birdathon in conjunction with the Maryland May Count as a way of raising funds for PIF efforts. The way it works is simple. May counters are

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Report On The Environmental Fund of Maryland

by Jay Jones, MOS delegate to the EFM Board

Almost two years ago, the MOS joined with a number of other organizations concerned about environmental issues to form the Environmental Fund of Maryland (EFM). The purpose of the EFM is to broaden the financial support of member organizations through collaborative fundraising. The primary focus is to obtain access to, and coordinate participation in, workplace payroll deduction fundraising campaigns. The EFM has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Current members of EFM include: The Accokeek Foundation, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, American Chestnut Land Trust, Anacostia Watershed Society, Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, Bay Ridge Trust, Chesapeake Audubon Society, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, Clean Water Fund, Committee to Preserve Assateague Island, Conservation Federation of Maryland, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, Echo Hill Outdoor School, The Howard County Conservancy, Irvine Natural Science Center, Lower Shore Land Trust, MOS, Maryland Save Our Streams, Mid-Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited, and The Nature Conservancy.

At the close of it's initial Fall campaign of 1993, EFM distributed $209,000 to affiliated members. The totals for last year's campaign are currently being processed by the Combined Federal Campaigns staff and will be released to EFM for distribution in April, 1995. Clearly, the EFM has better name recognition than it did a year ago, and Jim Eacker, Executive Director of EFM, is very optimistic that this year's distributions will be significantly higher than the last.

Most of EFM's success in it's initial two years is the result of access to governmental employees through the Combined Federal Campaign, as practiced at Federal, State, County, and City levels.

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chapter chatter

by Jane Hill

From seed to forest — For 18 years, the Howard County Chapter has been raising money by selling bird seed twice a year, in October and January, and donating the proceeds for the protection of bird habitat, not only directly, but also indirectly, through support of studies that protect ecosystems. Over the years, the sales have generated a total of more than $35,000, which has been contributed to the Nature Conservancy, to rain-forest nature reserves in Central America, and to the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas. Each sale attracts more than 200 customers, who usually purchase a total of about 30,000 pounds of seed. During each of the past two years, the sales have generated $2,000-$2,500. About 25 volunteers work on the sales under the direction of Eileen Clegg. To receive announcements of the sales, contact Eileen at (410) 730-4362.

Seed sales are spreading — Bird seed sales have also sprouted in the Anne Arundel Chapter, which holds them in conjunction with Quiet Waters Park, in Annapolis. As in Howard County, the sales are held in October and January. The club's share of the profit from the January 1995 sale was close to

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Nominations for 1995-96 MOS State Officers

by Gary Nelson

The following officers, all incumbents, have expressed their willingness to continue for another year in their current posts:

President: Al Haury, Anne Arundel
Vice-President: Bob Rineer, Baltimore
Secretary: Sybil Williams, Montgomery

Larry Fry, who has served most ably for the past two years as State Treasurer, has asked to be allowed to resign so he can rediscover birds. At this time a nominee has yet to be found for this position. As soon as the Nominating Committee finds the right person, a mailing of the full slate of proposed officers will be sent to all members, as required by MOS By-Laws. Voting on these nominations will occur at the Annual Meeting and additional nominations may be entered from the floor at that time.

Would you like to be considered for State Treasurer? Do you know someone else who is qualified for this most responsible of positions? Contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Gary Nelson, at (301) 897-8916.

THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT
Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

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If you have a change of address or are experiencing difficulties with MOS mailings, contact the Mailing List Coordinator, William Guion, 8007 Martown Road, Laurel, MD 20723, (301) 490-0444.

All other questions regarding the Maryland Ornithological Society should be referred to the Executive Secretary, Will Tress, 203 Gittings Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21212, (410) 433-1058.

For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the September/October 1995 issue are:

September-November Calendar Activities:
August 1, 1995

All Other Submissions:
August 5, 1995

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Report On The EFM

Rich Dolesh, in the last issue of the **Yellowthroat** ("The Conservation Corner"), challenged MOS members to stand up for conservation of our ecosystems. This is of particular importance as Congress reduces funding to governmental agencies that have traditionally administered programs important to the preservation and enjoyment of flora and fauna.

We need your help. Beginning with the Fall 1995 campaign now being organized, the EFM will be focusing on improving our access to non-governmental sources of workplace payroll contributions. Many MOS members are employed throughout Maryland in public corporations and private companies. You and your workplace friends may now look to the EFM to provide a conduit through which donations can be channeled to environmentally concerned organizations.

I implore you: get involved! Help us identify potential employers who would be receptive to workplace payroll deduction fundraising at their sites. More importantly, work with me to find the person(s) at these companies who are decision makers about EFM access to their employee contributions. Armed with this information, I and other EFM Access Committee members will mount a persuasive effort to include that company and site in our Fall 1995 campaign. Please complete the attached form and return it to my attention at Environmental Fund for Maryland, PO Box 257, Woodstock, MD 21163-0257.

In the coming months I will be seeking a few minutes at local MOS chapter meetings to answer your questions, and to further explain the EFM objectives and the status of our efforts. I invite you to call me concerning EFM matters at any time at (301) 670-0516.

EFM Prospect Form

Your Name: ----------
Telephone: ----------

Employer Prospect: ----------
Street, Suite #: ----------
City, State, Zip: ----------

Estimated # Employees: ----------

Suggested Contact: ----------
Telephone: ----------

Current Charity Campaign: ----------
(if any) ----------

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DNR Reports . . .

encouraged to gather pledges, either a certain amount per species observed or a fixed amount. After the count, the money is collected and mailed to Larry Fry, MOS Treasurer. If you are counting on May 13, please consider participating in this birdathon; if you cannot be in the field that day, please consider sponsoring one of the counters. The monies generated will go toward priority PIF projects.

One project that has already been completed was a conservation workshop with the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association in January. PIF was the topic of the one-day workshop. The focus of the workshop was informing park managers and naturalists about Neotropical migratory landbirds, their habitats, and the problems they face. This network of park personnel can now pass this message on to the thousands of visitors to their parks each year.

Another project getting underway this year is the Micro Atlas. This project is an intensive three-year effort to provide detailed information on the breeding distribution of 52 landbirds that are considered rare and lack good monitoring data. Garrett County will be the focus this year. The project will be expanded statewide the following two years.

Partners are also conducting various projects as part of the overall plan. For example, my office is completing a mapping effort delineating all the forest interior habitat in Maryland. The U.S. Army at the Aberdeen Proving Ground has funded an inventory of Neotropical migrants on their property. And Brown-Headed Cowbird research is being conducted by the Appalachian Environmental Lab. As you can see, much is happening.

This year PIF will be featured at the 50th Annual MOS Convention in Emmitsburg in June. This will be a good opportunity for you to become more familiar with our efforts and to discuss it one-on-one with the partners. Hope to see you there.

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Chapter Chatter

$500. Money raised is used to support education and conservation causes, and for speakers.

Speakers, in turn, raise money — In addition to its seed sales, the Anne Arundel Chapter raises money each year through its Richard E. Heise, Jr., Wildlife Lecture. Donations (at least $2 per person) are requested at the door and are then contributed to the state MOS scholarship and sanctuary funds. This year's scheduled lecturer was raptor expert Bill Clark, speaking April 7 on eagles of the world.

From cans to coin — The Harford Chapter is environmentally active and generates money for the Chapter at the same time. Bill McIntosh and Dave Webb collect aluminum cans at Chapter meetings and turn them in to a local recycling center, with all proceeds going to the club.

Housing for eggs also turns profit — The Harford Chapter's third annual nest box workshop, held February 25 at Conowingo Dam Visitors Center, was by far the most successful. The workshop is held in cooperation with the Philadelphia Electric Company. This year, more than 120 boxes (at least twice as many as last year) were delivered to customers as kits, for assembly either at home or on the spot. The boxes had been ordered by customers and then cut out by club members. Profits from the sales are used by the Chapter to publish checklists and brochures.

Bargain books — For many years, the Howard Chapter has been purchasing discount books from a distributor and selling them to club members at Chapter meetings for 20 percent off list price. The books include the standard field guides to birds, butterflies, and plants. For the past six years, Michele Wright has been in charge of the bookstore. The sales are held mainly as a service to members, but they too—yes—generate some money for the club.

Offerings to youth... — To entice young birders to join MOS, the Harford Chapter is offering free junior memberships to one student at each of the county's nine high schools. The students are chosen by science teachers. So far, five students have accepted.

...and answering a request from the elderly — In response to a request from a local retirement community, the Baltimore Chapter has scheduled a bird walk on the community's grounds for this spring. [Are there other retirement communities in Maryland that might welcome MOS-sponsored walks, but haven't thought to ask?]

A Maryland "Big Day"? — The Anne Arundel Chapter asks whether members of other chapters might like to help organize an annual "Big Day" of birding, covering the State of Maryland. The Big Day would be in May or early June, beginning this year if there's still time. If interested, contact Peter Hanan, at (301) 858-1633.

Caveat — Access to the University of Maryland Central Farm (an agricultural research facility) on Folly Quarter Road in Howard County is now restricted. To make arrangements to bird at this site, contact Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

New Habitat for Migrating Buff-breasted Sandpipers

by Stauffer Miller

To the author's knowledge, there are but a handful of records of Buff-breasted Sandpiper for Frederick County. The first of these was of a juvenile bird at Penn Shop Road Turf Farm near Mt. Airy on September 21, 1992. The second was of three birds at the dry edge of a large dairy farm manure lagoon near Emmitsburg August 28-September 6, 1993. A third record was of another individual at this same lagoon August 29, 1994. The fourth record is the principal subject of this report.

On August 30, 1994, the author was driving by a large field east of Lewiston in central Frederick County. This field, possibly 10 acres in size, was recently planted to clover, which had germinated to a height of one inch or so. Much bare ground was still showing. About 20 Killdeer and 10 Mourning Doves were feeding in the field, occasioning the author to do a binocular scan. Amidst the Killdeer was a single adult Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The bird was busily walking and running as it fed.

Richard Forster of Massachusetts Audubon Society discussed this shorebird in a 1991 article in **Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts**, wherein he stressed the clustering of records for the bird around September 1 and the search for it among Killdeer flocks. He suggested looking for it on golf courses, turf farms, Hudsonian moors, and edges of lakes. To this list I would like to add, at least for Central Maryland, recently germinated clover fields.

50th Anniversary Commemorative Patch Now Available

The patch commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of MOS is now available for sale. The striking, full color, 4-inch embroidered patch, a line drawing of which appeared on the cover of the 1995 Conference Announcement, features a Baltimore Oriole and is the work of Donald Culbertson of the Baltimore Chapter. These handsome, limited-edition patches sell for $3 each, plus $1 shipping and handling for each order. Send your order, with your check made payable to MOS, to John Malcolm, 10205 Kindly Court, Montgomery Village, MD 20879. Order yours now!!!

1995 Scholarship Winners

by Isa Sieracki

The MOS Scholarship Program was a great success in 1995, with nine scholarships awarded from an astounding pool of 21 applicants. Following are this year's winners:

Chandler S. Robbins Ornithology Scholarship
Maureen Kief, Naturalist
Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore

Edith Bourne Memorial Ecology Scholarship
Kelly L. Hortch, Teacher
Baltimore

Eleanor C. Robbins Ecology Scholarship
Diana Eisenhour, Teacher
Harford County

Orville Crowder Memorial Ecology Scholarship
Liam R. Kennedy, Ass't Supervisor of Public Education Programs
Maryland Science Center, Baltimore

The Gibson-Mendinhall Ecology Scholarship
Peggy Ford, Teacher
Talbot County

Helen Miller Ecology Scholarships
Karen Chambless, Teacher
Baltimore

Robert W. Dyke, Park Naturalist
Jug Bay

Michael Mennett, Park Naturalist
Jug Bay

Johanna Rawlings, Student-Naturalist
Harford County

Official Minutes of the MOS Board of Directors Meeting December 10, 1994

by Sybil Williams

The MOS Board meeting was called to order by Al Haury, President, at 10:05 a.m.. The meeting was hosted by the Talbot Chapter and held in the Loyola Federal building in Easton, Maryland.

The minutes from the September 24 meeting were accepted.

President's Report—Thanks went out to the Montgomery and Howard Chapters for hours spent on the EFM. The President still needs a recommendation for an assistant to work on the fund.

Vice President—No report.

Treasurer—No report.

Executive Secretary—There is now available a fresh supply of MOS stationary. The society is receiving 2-3 messages a week on voice mail. There are 60-70 Yellow Books still available.

Past-President—The headquarters for the Organization of Tropical Studies in Costa Rica burnt down. Money is requested for rebuilding. Send donations to OTS, Save the Garden Fund, Duke University, Box 90630, Durham, NC 27708-0630. The Board voted to send $500 immediately and the Chapters are encouraged to make contributions.

Audit—No report.

By-laws—Four changes have been made to the By-laws and the Manual of Operation. *[Ed. note: the two proposed changes to the By-laws were published in the March/April 1995 issue of the* ***MD Yellowthroat****. The two changes to the Manual of Operation, as included with the minutes, are here reprinted.]*

Change 1:

This committee shall consist of no fewer than five members, including the chair. It shall award grants for research conducted primarily in the State of Maryland. Grant applicants need not be Maryland residents. The minimum amount budgeted to the Committee each year shall be the annual income earned by the research endowment fund in the previous year. Should the dollar amount of grants awarded in a given year fall below the amount of annual income earned or the amount budgeted to the Committee, the difference shall be added to the monies available to the Committee for the next budget year, up to a maximum of $7500. Any funds in excess of $7500 shall be reinvested in the research endowment fund. The committee shall have written guidelines for proposals. It shall review proposals for their value in ornithology or ecology and ascertain whether all conditions of grants are met. It shall also report to the Board of Directors the particulars of each grant and an annual summary of monies received and disbursed.

Change 2

(to V. Standing Committees/K. MD/DC Records Committee)

This committee shall consist of nine voting members including Chairperson appointed by the president of the MOS plus a non-voting Secretary also appointed by the President. These persons shall be MOS members in good standing and may be those recommended by the Committee. The main duty of the Records Committee will be to evaluate reports of sightings of birds in Maryland and the District of Columbia. The Committee will establish procedures for the submission of reports; publish a list of species being considered and types of reports desired or not desired; publish the results of its work periodically in **MD Yellowthroat**; review records published in **Maryland Birdlife** which have not been reviewed in Stewart & Robbins, 1958, **Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia**; and maintain an official list of Maryland birds.

The term of office for the Chairperson will be one year. Terms of office of the other voting members will be three years, arranged so that each year three members complete their terms. The non-voting Secretary shall accept annual reports, distribute the reports to voting members, tally votes, retain report and record files, and prepare not-less-than annual summaries of the committee's activities for publication in **Maryland Birdlife**.

Conference—The conference needs field trip leaders and a coordinator. Leaders are also needed for special programs. Each chapter is encouraged to have a display.

Conservation—Glendening would ease the process of wet lands which would be detrimental to wet lands. Changes in Congress may have negative effects on the environment. Subsidies may be removed that are anti-environmental. The Rachel Carson Council would like cooperation in their project of dead birds from pesticides. *[Ed. note: following is an additional report submitted by Rich Dolesh to the Board.]*

Based on the recent Congressional elections, MOS members should pay close attention to current or pending legislation, particularly the Endangered Species Act, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, and other legislation.

The Chesapeake Bay program—a multi-jurisdictional group charged with setting policy for the overall Chesapeake Bay Restoration Program will undergo the greatest change in make-up since the agreement was signed in 1987. 6 of the 8 members will change, including the Governor of Maryland. There has been concern over the commitment of Virginia under the leadership of Gov. George Allen, who has made efforts to scale back Virginia's environmental resources.

January marks the beginning of the Maryland State legislative year, which runs till mid-April. I have no information on pre-filed bills, yet, but as information becomes available, I will be forwarding it to conservation committee chairs in the chapters, or in the absence of a designated representative, to the chapter president. All chapters are encouraged to get information on local and regional conservation issues to me so I can help disseminate to other chapters.

Wednesday, January 26 there will be a workshop on the partners in Flight program. It will be targeted to environmental educators, park managers, and natural resource managers. All MOS members are invited.

Mark your calendars and encourage your chapter members to do something for International Migratory Bird Day, May 13, 1995.

Finally, please let me know of any conservation issues you think need attention.

Education—The Board approved procedures for the Education Committee presented at the last meeting. This includes $200 for each Chapter for education. The Committee wants a member from each Chapter at the Education meetings.

Investments—No report.

Library—Paul DuMont's father gave a set of **Maryland Birdlife** to the library.

Long-range Planning—No report.

Research—One request was received for a grant.

Sanctuary—There was a work day for Irish Grove the last weekend in October. Another piece of property has been found on the Eastern Shore to buy with the John Manuga bequest of $100,000. It would border on water. The MOS would participate with other funds in buying the property. It was voted to let the Sanctuary Committee and the local Chapter decide if this was feasible and to enter into negotiations.

Atlas—Everything is done except for the bibliography and final checking. The next step will be the galley proofs.

Mailing—Bar codes can be used and eliminate $30 on each mailing. This is under investigation.

Nominations— *[Report submitted by Gary Nelson, Chair]* The Nominations Committee has asked current retiring members, Ann

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Appreciation is the First Step Towards Preserving Our Natural Heritage

Review by Ellen Lawler

Keeping All the Pieces: Perspectives on Natural History and the Environment, by Whit Gibbons. Published by Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC, in 1993. $ 16.95

Whit Gibbons begins **Keeping All the Pieces** with a grim view of the way the world could be one hundred years from now: a world with 20 billion people, almost no wildlife, no wild areas, no outdoor recreation and few sizable trees. He states that this picture is not an exaggeration, but merely an extrapolation based on present trends. He offers hope that this doesn't have to be, provided that we all make significant changes in our lives and our priorities.

A major theme throughout the book is the idea that in order for people to make the changes needed to preserve nature, they need have the kind of appreciation for it that comes from personal experience. Along these lines, Dr. Gibbons, a professor of ecology, describes a number of interesting natural history anecdotes from his personal experience in Part 1. Although much of his research deals with reptiles and amphibians, Gibbons' tales run the gamut from a description of the dramatic blooming of evening primrose to the codes used by different species of fireflies to attract a mate or a meal to the various ways species deal with extreme cold.

One interesting episode concerns the relationships between three species of insects: aphids, ants and green lacewings. As most gardeners know, aphids are insects which suck the sap from various shrubs. Because they have no defenses, they are popular prey for other insects. In some situations, ant colonies will protect aphids in return for the ability to feed on honeydew, a sugar rich material secreted by the aphids. To make the relationship more complex and interesting, in some areas a third species gets involved. Green lacewing larvae are voracious aphid eaters, who use camouflage to protect themselves from the ants. When a lacewing larva enters an aphid colony, it strips the first aphid it encounters of its white, waxy covering and places the material on its own back. Now, posing as an aphid, it can remain undetected and unharmed within the colony, feeding on aphids at will.

This example and many others described in the book involve common species found, not in some remote forest in South America, but rather just outside our doors. Gibbons stresses that there are many such interesting relationships close at hand just waiting to be discovered. He reminds us that a personal discovery (of an event new to the observer) can be just as satisfying as the discovery of an event new to the world at large. However, the potential for making a totally new discovery is still surprisingly high; the ecology and behavior of many common species is still unknown. Gibbons feels that it is crucial for us to instill in young people not just an appreciation for the natural world, but also a sense of the excitement that comes with such discovery.

In Part 2, Gibbons concentrates on endangered and extinct species. He notes that while extinction is not new (over 99 percent of the species that have ever lived are now extinct), most of the extinctions in the past were related to natural phenomena and often occurred over long periods. The vast majority of the extinctions occurring now are human-related and are occurring at a rapid rate. He cites an estimate that by the end of this century, we may be losing as many as three thousand species per month.

Gibbons coins a new term—ecovoid—for "a missing component of our environment that we wish were present but can never be replaced." He mentions a number of bird species such as passenger pigeons and Carolina parakeets that fit this category. Again stressing the interdependence of species, Gibbons suggests that the extinction of the dodo from the island of Mauritius may have been crucial to the decline of the tambalacoque tree. Only a few of this once common tree remain on Mauritius and each is more than three centuries old. Some scientists believe that the seed of the tambalacoque, which is surrounded by a thick covering, needs to pass through the rugged digestive tract of a bird like the dodo to successfully germinate.

Parts 3 and 4 deal with environmental culprits and curbing environmental destruction. Gibbons suggests that dwelling on past episodes and judging them from present day ethics is non-productive and can often be divisive. Rather it is crucial that we work together to address and reverse current environmental issues. As he illustrates with some specific examples, most of the environmental issues of today are complex and not easily resolved. One chapter, which birders interested in getting involved in environmental issues may find useful, is devoted to choosing an environmental organization. With over 140 such organizations to choose from the task is not as simple as it once was. Drawing information from recent reviews in two magazines, Gibbons presents some interesting facts about some of the more, and less, familiar groups.

According to Gibbons, we are all environmental culprits to some degree and we all need to become involved to turn the tide. Although he gives a few specifics (such as the address to write to to stop receiving junk mail and a sample letter to write opposing destruction of a local woodland), this isn't a book with a laundry list of things to do to reduce our impact on the environment. For that Gibbons suggests other references such as **Fifty Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth** by Earth Works Press.

Gibbons suggests that we need an environmental attitude adjustment; according to him, many of our environmental laws are backwards. Currently a species must be proven, by the government or concerned citizens, to be threatened or endangered before it can be protected from further assault. The burden of proof should be on the harvester, developer or industry, who must prove that their activities will not threaten any species or natural resource before they can begin.

This book is directed towards and will appeal most to beginning naturalists, including birders, who are ready to step beyond straight identification and begin to understand and appreciate ecological relationships. For those who have already done a fair amount of reading on natural history and environmental issues, this book doesn't offer much that is very new or different. I also doubt that it alone would cause an attitude adjustment in someone who isn't already concerned about the environment. Most of the anecdotes given are interesting, but not as compelling as we need to convince the general public about the importance of preserving our natural heritage. I was also disappointed that the author didn't put more

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The Guest Reviewer

emphasis on the need to control human population growth, a crucial element in any plan to preserve nature.

Gibbons' themes on the importance of natural history and environmental education which run through the book are significant ones. The attitude adjustment needed to avoid environmental disaster is dependent on education and on instilling in everyone, especially children, an appreciation of the natural world. He suggests that individuals who have talent and experience in natural history and who don't share it with others are "environmental offenders". As birders, we all have experience in and enthusiasm for at least one aspect of nature. Fortunately, we don't have to look far to find a way to put this experience and enthusiasm to good use. The MOS Conservation and Education Committees are working on these sorts of issues; please consider helping them in whatever way you can. The future of nature, including birds and ourselves, is dependent on the success of these and similar groups throughout the world.

Ed. Note: For those of you who don't already know our reviewer, Ellen Lawler, she is a longtime member of the Wicomico County Chapter of MOS, was the tireless organizer of the MOS Annual Meeting held a few years back in Salisbury, and is now Chair of the Maryland Partners in Flight Education Committee. We thank her for squeezing this review out of the few free hours in her day!

LETTERS

January 25, 1995

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the Organization for Tropical Studies, I am writing to thank you for your recent gift of $500.00 to help the Las Cruces Biological Station recover from the fire that destroyed the Stanley Smith Science Building and adjacent laboratory. This contribution is greatly appreciated. It has permitted the implementation of emergency measures that will allow us to rebuild the station and offset the Garden's general operating expenses during this trying period.

Construction has already begun on renovation of the Wilson House. Formerly the Director's residence, it will now become a dormitory for visitors, student groups, natural history enthusiasts, and researchers. In addition, plans are being made to restore the laboratory and to build a new kitchen and dining hall at the site of the fire.

You will be hearing more about these changes in the months ahead from station directors Gail Hewson de Gomez and Luis Diego Gomez. Let it suffice to say now that your gift is helping to make this work possible and is critical to our continued operation of the site. In the meanwhile, please be assured that your contribution is an important part of the rebuilding effort and is tax-deductible under our IRS 501(c)(3) tax exemption status.

Donald E. Stone, Executive Director
Organization for Tropical Studies, Inc.

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Education Committee Report

Grants Fund, to be used for state educational projects. In other words, if you don't use it, you will lose it for that year. The State Education Committee already has ten times more projects available at the State level than we have money to support,. so we will be glad to help spend your money!

The Committee also voted to set aside some funds to pay for a feasibility study for a weekend ornithology youth camp. Anyone interested in this project should contact Linda Bystrak at (410) 392-5621.

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MOS State Board Minutes

Mitchell and Gary Nelson, to continue on the committee to provide leadership in the coming year. They have agreed to do so. Furthermore, Ann Mitchell has agreed to serve as chairman for 1994-1995. The action required by the board is to approve the reappointment of Ann Mitchell and Gary Nelson for two-year terms on the Nominations Committee. The Committee, of course, will be responsive to any actions or guidance from the Board.

Publications—Plan for **Maryland Birdlife**. Sept.-Dec. 1992 is ready. Combine 1993 into one issue. The combined 1994 issue will publish maps and also seasonal reports. 1995 will have four issues with the March issue being an anniversary issue.

MD Yellowthroat—Statewide membership directories have been prepared for each Chapter President and were distributed at the board meeting. Comments were requested on the format of the directory and on whether or not the board wishes to continue with this project for wider dissemination.

Records—There will be a status report for the **MD Yellowthroat** in the near future. *[ed. note: this summary appeared in the March/April issue of the MD Yellowthroat.]*

New Business—A search is being made for new MOS decals. It was proposed to hire a publicity person for MOS's 50th anniversary and in general. The next meeting will be held March 18.

The Great Feather Quest: The MD Breeding Bird *Micro*Atlas Project

by Jim McCann, MD DNR

Where exactly do Upland Sandpipers and Blackburnian Warblers nest in Maryland? How about Winter Wrens and Henslow's Sparrows? What is the best approach for setting up effective monitoring programs for these and other species (e.g. Cliff Swallow or Black-throated Blue Warbler) which, in Maryland, lack good population trend data? These are just a few of the questions that the Maryland Breeding Bird *Micro*Atlas Project will address over the next three years (1995-97). This statewide effort will identify, in unprecedented detail and coverage, breeding localities for 52 landbird species. All of the species are considered rare or suspected breeders in Maryland and/or lack population trend information. Most are Neotropical migrants.

The *Micro*Atlas is very similar to the Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas. Volunteers, for example, will be assigned Atlas blocks; "block busting", "incidental reports", and "verification forms" are all part of the protocol. Sound familiar? However, there are two big differences. First, the *Micro*Atlas will focus on 52 target species, most of which are considered rare. Second, breeding localities will be recorded by site (literally a dot on a map) rather than by block or quarter block. Why such detail? To effectively protect habitat for many of these species and monitor their populations, this level of resolution is essential.

The *Micro*Atlas Project was conceived and developed by the Maryland Partners in Flight Inventory and Monitoring Committee. Members of MOS who serve on the Committee have played a major role in the development of the project. During 1995, the project will take place in Garrett County and be expanded statewide in subsequent years.

If you would like more information on the *Micro*Atlas Project, contact me, Jim McCann, at MD Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 68, Wye Mills, MD 21679; (410) 827-8612. I can point you to some great weekend birding ("*Micro*Atlasing") in the western corner of our state!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birdathon To Benefit Migratory Bird Conservation

To help celebrate the return of our Neotropical migratory birds and raise money for their conservation, Maryland Partners in Flight, with the assistance of MOS, is sponsoring a Birdathon on International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), Saturday, May 13. The way it works is simple. Participants (counters) gather pledges from sponsors. A counter can recruit one or many sponsors and can also sponsor him/herself. Each sponsor pledges a certain amount for each species identified by the counter on May 13. Then comes the best part—they spend the day doing what they most enjoy, birding anywhere in the state of Maryland. Many MOS members will probably be involved in the North American Migration Count that day; we encourage them to be a Birdathon counter at the same time. After May 13, the counters should inform all their sponsors of the number of species counted on IMBD and the amount of money owed. Sponsors should make their checks out to "MOS" with a notation (in the lower left of the check) "for PIF" and give the checks to the counter. The counter should give or send these to Larry Fry, MOS Treasurer, 1202 Ridge Rd., Pylesville, MD 21132. Information and sponsor sign-up sheets have been sent to MOS chapter presidents and May Count coordinators. To take part, get in touch with Jim McCann at (410) 827-8612 or Ellen Lawler at (410) 543-6496). The money raised will be used by Maryland Partners in Flight to further the efforts of Neotropical migratory bird conservation particularly in the area of education. What better way to celebrate the return of our beautiful migratory birds, than to spend a day in the field with them and raise money to help in their conservation at the same time!

International Migratory Bird Day, May 13

As birders, we all experience a special thrill each Spring with the return of our "summer residents". All of a sudden, the once quiet woods are filled with the beautiful colors and songs of warblers, tanagers, vireos and more. Many birders wait for this event with anticipation and consider it to be one of the highlights of the birding year. Isn't it about time we shared this wonderful secret with others? The theme of the Third Annual International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), "Sharing a Passion for Birds", seeks to do just that. For the sake of our Neotropical migratory birds, we must. In its first two years, hundreds of IMBD events were held throughout the U.S., Canada, and Central America. These events included field trips, workshops, displays, and projects to protect forests, here and in the tropics. Plans are currently underway to make IMBD 1995 even more successful. Here in Maryland, planned events include: a bird walk led by MOS member and author, Lola Oberman, May 13, sponsored by the Wild Bird Center of Cabin John (call (301) 229-3141 for more information) and a walk in Belt Woods, sponsored by the Prince George's Audubon (call (202) 543-9080). Maryland Partners in Flight is sponsoring an art exchange between elementary students in Maryland and Latin America funded by the MOS Education Committee and a Birdathon to raise funds to aid in migratory bird conservation (see above). Governor Glendening is expected to issue an official proclamation. A Paul Winter concert, to benefit the acquisition of Belt Woods by the Western Shore Conservancy, is planned for early May. For more information on these and other events, call Ellen Lawler at (410) 543-6496 and watch your local newspaper for events in your area. Even if there are no "official" IMBD events in your town, you can still become involved. Take a few non-birding friends on a bird walk to one of your favorite spots, write a letter to a local newspaper or official regarding the importance of protecting forested habitat, contact an elementary school about giving a workshop on bird identification, or begin landscaping your backyard to attract wildlife. There are many ways we can "Share our Passion for Birds" on IMBD and throughout the year. In the end, we'll all, birds and humans alike, benefit from the experience.

Montgomery County BBS

If you bird in Montgomery County Parks, we need your help for the Montgomery County Parks Breeding Bird Survey. Volunteer birders are needed to conduct 5-minute point counts of breeding birds at designated spots. Participants will record all birds seen or heard within the five minute period and record other information according to specific instructions. All counts will be conducted in early morning, during the first three weeks of June. Once collected, this important data will be used in assessing future park development and acquisition. To participate, birders must be able to identify most breeding birds of Maryland by sight, song, **and** call. Less experienced volunteers will be paired with experienced birders where possible. There will be a training meeting held in May for volunteers who wish to participate. For more information and to volunteer, call Rob Gibbs at (301) 650-2613. This BBS is sponsored by the MNCPPC Department of Parks, Montgomery County, MD, in cooperation with the National Biological Service and the National Park Service.

Volunteers Needed for Songbird Study at Jug Bay

For the sixth year, the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary is participating in the MAPS program (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship), a nation-wide cooperative effort to monitor songbird populations. Volunteers are needed to help run 17 mist nets in a deciduous forest. Duties include opening and closing mist nets, and identifying, aging, measuring, weighing, and banding songbirds. The study period is mid-May through mid-August, and we band every seven to ten days (usually Tuesdays and Saturdays). Prior bird banding experience is helpful but not required. For more information and a schedule of banding dates, call Chris Swarth at (410) 741-9330.

Grant Money Available

by Linda Bystrak

The MOS Education Committee held their Spring meeting at the Horsehead Nature Center near Kent Island, on April 1. The weather was perfect, the Spring flowers were blooming, and the ponds were full of wildfowl engaged in the rituals of Spring. Any MOS member who has not yet been to this Wildfowl Trust facility, is urged to visit. The facility is pleasantly different from its Piedmont counterparts because of the numerous ponds and marshes full of both migrating and permanent residents. Our sincere thanks to the Wildfowl Trust for the use of their facility.

The Committee awarded its first Chapter Grant to the Jug Bay Chapter in March. The money will be used for an outdoor education experience for children from a homeless shelter. We also contributed $300 to Partners In Flight, to co-sponsor a pilot project between 7 elementary classes in Maryland and 7 in South/Central America. The students in all countries will be exchanging drawings of Neotropical birds they have seen living in their areas. They will also receive large posters of Neotropical birds to display in their classrooms, in addition to other materials. The funds for this project are from the Education Committee's Statewide Grants Fund.

Two additional Chapter Grants, for $200 each, were approved at the April 1 meeting. One was for the Baltimore Chapter to have an adult, male Bald Eagle professionally mounted. The bird was a former resident of the Baltimore Zoo and will become part of the Cylburn collection, which is used for educational purposes. The second Chapter Grant awarded in April went to the Howard County Bird Club for an educational/promotional display. The Committee approved the idea of a combination display as long as it included an ornithology education activity. Committee members recommended tape recordings of bird songs, information on how to build bird houses, displays matching bird pictures with their names, etc. be added.

Because our fiscal year ends in May, we are asking that each MOS chapter submit its Chapter Grant before May 31. Any grant requests received after that date will be funded from the 1995-96 budget. That means that the money set aside for your chapter in the 1994-95 budget year will be put into the Education Committee's Statewide

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MOS Calendar
May-August, 1995

TBA, May

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Patuxent River Park/Boat Excursion (Joint trip with ANS). Mid-week trip in early May, to be scheduled at a later date. For further information, contact the leader, Paul DuMont, at 703-931-8994.

Tuesday, May 2

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Josie Gray, at 410-922-1837.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn. For late afternoon bird activity. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Cylburn Arboretum. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

MEETING. Baltimore. "Identifying Resident Warblers by Sight and Song" by Pete Webb. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Mini-walk on the Snavely Trail. For further information, contact Betty Wolfe at 301-824-5391.

Thursday, May 4

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Bluebell Farm for Garrett County Spring flowers. Meet 6:00 p.m. at the Tasty Freeze on Route 40 west of Frostburg. For further information and reservation, call the leaders, Charlotte Folk at 301-689-6587 or Gladys Faherty at 301-689-8710.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Woodstock. Canceled if raining. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Howard Johnson, Towson. For further information, contact the leaders, Bill Gray at 301-596-0063 or Erana Lubbert at 410-339-6133.

Friday, May 5

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Bluebell Farm for Garrett County Spring flowers. Meet 6:00 p.m. at the Tasty Freeze on Route 40 west of Frostburg. For further information and reservation, call the leaders, Charlotte Folk at 301-689-6587 or Gladys Faherty at 301-689-8710.

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Birding in Panama" by Mark Letzer. 8:00 p.m. at Annapolis Senior High School Media Room, Riva Road, Annapolis.

DINNER MEETING. Harford. "Hummingbirds and Other Birds of Trinidad & Tobago" by Ross & Beth Hawkins. Dinner served at 6:15 p.m., followed by business meeting and speaker. Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. Dinner reservations required by April 26. For further information, call Jean Fry at 410-452-8539.

Saturday, May 6

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Rockburn Branch Park, Howard Co. Combined trip with Howard County for spring migrants. Meet 6:00 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. Bring lunch. For further information, contact the coordinator, Al Haury at 410-757-3523. The leader is Bonnie Ott at 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland and Hospital Pond. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Paul Strohecker at 410-377-7822.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Harford Glen. Beginners trip near Bel Air for egrets, hawks, shorebirds, and warblers. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the mansion house, south end of Wheel Road. Also included are plant identification and a banding demonstration. For further information contact the leader, Mary Procell at 410-838-2172.

Sunday, May 7

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Susquehanna State Park and area, Cecil Co. Joint trip with Harford County for spring migrants. Meet 5:00 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. Bring lunch. For further information, contact the leader, Al Haury at 410-757-3523. The Harford contact is Les Eastman at 410-734-6969.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Milford Mill Park for migrant and resident warblers; 20 warbler species seen on two consecutive Saturdays last year. Wilson's Warbler possible. One mile walk on mostly level, paved path. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the park on Milford Mill Road. For further information, contact the leaders, Pete Webb at 410-486-1217, or Steve Sanford at 410-922-5103.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Trail Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at front porch of Cylburn Mansion for a casual self-guided walk. For further information, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Susquehanna State Park. Joint trip with Anne Arundel chapter. Possible species include Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Wild Turkey, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Meet at 6:15 a.m. at the junction of Rock Run and Stafford Roads. For further information contact the leader, Les Eastman at 410-734-6969.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Noland's Ferry, Lilypons, Oland Rd. Migrant and nesting landbirds. Shorebirds and waterfowl possible. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Rt. 80 commuter parking lot east of I-270 at Urbana. For further information, contact the leader, Gary Nelson, at 301-897-8916.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sewage Ponds. Led by Dick Kleen. Meet 7 a.m. in front of the Courthouse in Easton. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Monday, May 8

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Bluebell Farm for Garrett County Spring flowers. Meet 6:00 p.m. at the Tasty Freeze on Route 40 west of Frostburg. For further information and reservation, call the leaders, Charlotte Folk at 301-689-6587 or Gladys Faherty at 301-689-8710.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn. For late afternoon bird activity. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Cylburn Arboretum. For further information, contact the leader, Bob Rineer at 410-391-8499.

MEETING. Kent. "Shorebirds of Maryland & Delaware" by Robert Ringler. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library in Chestertown.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Huntley Meadows, VA. Migrant and nesting landbirds and marsh birds. Meet 7:00 a.m. at visitor center parking lot off Lockheed Blvd. Reservations required. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Erika Wilson, at 703-536-3823.

Tuesday, May 9

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Bluebell Farm for Garrett County Spring flowers. Meet 6:00 p.m. at the Tasty Freeze on Route 40 west of Frostburg. For further information and reservation, call the leaders, Charlotte Folk at 301-689-6587 or Gladys Faherty at 301-689-8710.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Shirley Geddes at 410-377-6583.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Adventure Banding Station, 8:30 a.m. Limit 14. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Lola Oberman, at 301-365-1058.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Mini-walk on the C&D Canal at Potomac Fish and Game Club. For further information, contact Betty Wolfe at 301-824-5391.

Wednesday, May 10

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn. For late afternoon bird activity. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Cylburn Arboretum. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

Thursday, May 11

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Monkton for wildflowers and birds on the farm of Walter and Ann Allen Dandy. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Howard Johnson, Towson. For further information, contact the leader, Bill Gray at 301-596-0063.

MEETING. Howard. "Birds of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego" by Hank Kaestner. 8:00 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia. For further information, contact Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Little Bennett Park. Resident and migrant landbirds. Meet 7:00 a.m. at King's Park, Rt. 121, 1 mile east of I-270 (Clarksburg exit). For further information, contact the leader, Bill Kulp, at 301-593-4617.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Natural History of Owls." by Paul Engman, well-known authority on owls. 8:00 p.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac.

Sunday, May 14

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Merkle WMA & Patuxent River Park area, P.G. Co. Warblers, shorebirds. Meet 6:00 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. Bring lunch. For further information, contact the leader, Barbara Ricciardi, at 301-464-1962.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Phoenix for spring migrant warblers and resident Cerulean, Kentucky and Worm-eating Warblers and both Orioles. Several miles of level walking. Meet 7:00 a.m. at Phoenix Pond on Phoenix Road. For further information, contact the leader, Graham Egerton, at 410-243-5993.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Trail Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at front porch of Cylburn Mansion for a casual self-guided walk. For further information, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Soldier's Delight. Chorus of Whip-poor-wills at dusk, with Chuck-will's-widow and woodcock possible. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the historical marker. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Jan Reese. Meet 7 a.m. in front of the Courthouse in Easton. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Tuesday, May 16

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Bob Wood at 410-256-6310.

Wednesday, May 17

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn. For late afternoon bird activity. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Cylburn Arboretum. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

Thursday, May 18

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Gunpowder Trails. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Howard Johnson, Towson. For further information, contact the leader, Bill Gray at 301-596-0063.

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Islands of Galapagos" by Greg Kearns. 7 p.m. at Patuxent River Park. For more information call 301-627-6074.

Friday-Saturday, May 19-20

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. "Slumber Birding Party" at Carey Run Sanctuary. Join your fellow club members to enjoy spring warblers at Carey Run. Stay over Friday night, or meet on Saturday at Carey Run at 6:00 a.m. for dawn chorus birding, or at 8:00 a.m. for other birding. There is room for 12 at the house - call Charlotte Folk at 301-689-6587 if you plan to stay overnight.

Saturday-Sunday, May 20-21

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Delaware Shore Trip. Migration of shorebirds, maybe some surprises. Meet at Busch's Chesapeake Inn parking lot on Rt. 50. Make reservations by May 13. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Steve Hult at 410-263-8095.

Saturday, May 20

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Spring Roundup. 100 species or bust! We'll probably start at Susquehanna State Park (Rock Run) for woodland species, then head to New Jersey coastal sites such as Brigantine, Stone Harbor, and Moore's Beach for shorebirds, egrets and herons, rails, terns, etc., including possibly Whimbrels and Gull-billed Terns. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Cromwell Bridge Park & Ride lot. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Sanford at 410-922-5103.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Delaware Bay. All-day trip for shorebirds and horseshoe crabs. Bring lunch and insect repellent. Scopes helpful. Meet at 6 a.m. at the US 40 Ames between Havre de Grace and Aberdeen. For further information contact the leader, Randy Robertson at 410-273-9029.

FIELD TRIP. Kent. Delaware Beaches for shorebirds and horseshoe crabs. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Super Fresh parking lot. For further information, call Vernon Stotts at 410-827-8152.

Sunday, May 21

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Trail Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at front porch of Cylburn Mansion for a casual self-guided walk. For further information, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

PICNIC. Caroline. 1:00 p.m. at Debby Bennett's house. For further information, contact Debby Bennett at 410-479-2978.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Aberdeen Proving Ground and Tydings Park. Morning trip for migrant songbirds and shorebirds. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the APG Ordnance Museum, intersection of Harford and Aberdeen Boulevards on post. For further information contact the leader, Harold Boling at 410-638-5315.

FIELD TRIP. Jug Bay. Orioles, Bobwhites and Prairie Warblers. Meet 8:15 a.m. at the Izaak Walton Area on Governor's Bridge Road in Bowie. For further information, call the leader, Mike Callahan, at 301-390-1182.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Horn Point. Led by Don Meritt. Breakfast hosts are Don and Joyce Meritt. Meet 7 a.m. in front of the Courthouse in Easton. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Monday, May 22

MEETING. Wicomico. Amateur Night - Have fun sharing some birding knowledge with other club members. Please contact Celeste Bunting, in advance, if you plan to participate. 7:30 p.m. at the Asbury United Methodist Church, Salisbury.

Tuesday, May 23

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader Mac Plant at 410-532-2445.

Saturday, May 27

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Patuxent River Canoe Trip, A.A. Co. Migrants and rails by canoe. Limit: 15 people. Meet 6:30 a.m. at Parole Plaza parking lot, on Riva Rd. side next to cemetery. Bring lunch. Make reservations by May 20. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Al Haury at 410-757-3523.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Delaware Bay. Shorebird spectacle on the shores of the Delaware Bay. Hundreds of breeding plumage Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knots, and other sandpipers. Curlew Sandpiper or Ruff possible. Telescopes useful. Meet at Bombay Hook NWR at 9:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Gene Scarpulla at 410-821-0575.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Dam. Likely sightings include Baltimore Oriole, Bald Eagle, Prothonotary Warbler, and Warbling Vireo. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Fisherman's Park, east end of Shures Landing Road. For further information contact the leader, Les Eastman at 410-734-6969.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. "Bat-It" Bat Watch. Meet at 8:00 p.m. at Old Montrose Schoolhouse, 5721 Randolph Rd. at Rockville Pike in Rockville. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Tom Valega, at 301-984-9453 or at 301-424-7289.

Sunday, May 28

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center North Tract. Late spring migrants & resident birds. Meet 6:00 a.m. at Parole Plaza parking lot, on Riva Rd. side next to cemetery. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Peter Hanan at 410-721-2658.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Trail Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at front porch of Cylburn Mansion for a casual self-guided walk. For further information, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Palmer State Park. Good area for hawks, both waterthrushes, Swainson's Thrush, and Brown Thrasher. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Darlington- Dublin VFW on US 1, 1/3-mile south of MD 136. For further information contact the leaders, Jean & Larry Fry at 410-452-8539.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk led by Jan Reese. Meet 7 a.m. in front of the Courthouse in Easton. For further information contact Bill Novak at 410-822-2432 or Fred Snyder at 410-745-5563.

Monday, May 29

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Upper Deer Creek. Morning trip for Worm-eating Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Willow Flycatcher, and Horned Lark. Meet at 6:45 a.m. at Hidden Valley, north end of Madonna Road. For further information contact the leader, Dennis Kirkwood at 410-692-5905.

TBA, June

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Patuxent River Park/Boat Excursion-Joint trip with ANS to be scheduled for a Saturday in June. Details TBA. For further information, contact the leader, Paul DuMont, at 703-931-8994.

Friday-Sunday, June 2-4

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Carey Run. Overnight at MOS Sanctuary in Garrett County. Birding in Garrett County and western Allegheny County. Bobolinks, Savannah Sparrows, Golden-winged Warblers and other Western Maryland specialties. Henslow's Sparrow and Ruffed Grouse seen last year. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

Saturday-Sunday, June 3-4

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Southern West Virginia And Highland County, VA. Nesting and migrant landbirds. Participants must be ready for 6:15 a.m. start on Saturday. Details TBA. For further information, contact the leader, John Bjerke, at 301-963-8525.

Sunday, June 4

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Meyer's Station. Warblers, maybe Grasshopper Sparrow. Meet 5:30 a.m. at Parole Plaza parking lot, on Riva Rd. side next to cemetery. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Sue Ricciardi, at 410-647-9513.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Trail Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at front porch of Cylburn Mansion for a casual self-guided walk. For further information, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

Friday, June 9

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Northeastern Harford County area for owls and Whip-poor-wills. Meet at 7:45 p.m. at Dublin Elementary School, intersection of MD 136 and MD 440. An optional, indoor social gathering follows trip; attendees are asked to contribute a snack and/or beverage. For further information contact Jean or Larry Fry at 410-452-8539.

ANNUAL PICNIC. Kent. 5:30 p.m. at the Wilmer Park Pavilion. For further information, contact Pat Wilson at 410-778-1005.

Saturday, June 10

ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC. Anne Arundel. Potluck picnic at Kathy Lambert and Brian Bowie's place. 4:00 p.m. Details in May newsletter.

Sunday, June 11

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Trail Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at front porch of Cylburn Mansion for a casual self-guided walk. For further information, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Gunpowder Falls State Park - Upper Falls. Wooded stream valley dividing Harford and Baltimore Counties is good area for nesting songbirds, including Cerulean and Kentucky Warblers, and Veery. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the 152 Park 'n' Ride along I-95. For further information contact the leader, Mark Johnson at 679-3788.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Green Ridge State Forest, Allegany Co., MD. Nesting warblers: Cerulean, Golden-winged, etc. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Rt. 80 commuter lot east of I-270 at Urbana. Rough roads will require carpooling. We will return to the parking lot at 5:00 p.m. Bring lunch, snacks, beverages, and repellent. Limit 12. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Franz Hespenheide, at 301-253-0416.

Saturday, June 17

FIELD TRIP AND PICNIC. Baltimore. Prettyboy Dam Birding and Picnic. Nesting Cliff Swallows at the dam, summer residents at woodland trail (two-mile walk). Summer Tanagers possible. Picnic and swim at Patsy Perlman's country home. Bring picnic supper. Meet at 2:00 p.m. at the Timonium Park & Ride Lot. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb at 410-486-1217. For picnic reservations, call Patsy Perlman, at 410-466-3998.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Eden Mill Park. Good location along Deer Creek for nesting orioles, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Worm-eating Warbler & Yellow-breasted Chat. Trip will probably include a visit to scenic Kilgore Falls. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Nature Center on Eden Mill Road just west of Fawn Grove Road. For further information contact the leader, Tom Congersky at 410-676-6489.

Sunday, June 18

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Southern Birds. Trip for Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat and other southern specialties. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Nursery Road - Hammonds Ferry Road Park & Ride. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Sanford at 410-922-5103.

Friday-Sunday, July 14-16

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Carey Run Weekend. Using MOS Sanctuary as base, trip will visit various locations in Garrett County for mountain nesters such as Blackburnian and Golden-winged Warbler, Alder Flycatcher and Henslow's Sparrow. Call leader Mark Johnson (410-679-3788) by Friday, July 7 to make reservations, or for additional details.

Saturday, July 22

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Delaware Refuges. Shorebirds, marsh birds, terns, etc. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Bombay Hook refuge parking lot. Joint trip with ANS. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, John Bjerke, at 301-963-8525

Saturday, August 12

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Pot Luck Shorebirds. "Chase" trip for shorebird species reported on most recent mid-Atlantic hotlines. Bring sunscreen, insect repellent and lunch; scopes helpful. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the US 40 Ames, located between Aberdeen and Havre de Grace. For further information contact the leader, Dennis Kirkwood at 410-692-5905.

Tuesday-Thursday, August 22-24

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Bel Air Goatsuckers. Three consecutive evening watches for Common Nighthawks, each beginning at 6:00 p.m.. Meet atop the Bel Air parking garage, located at the corner of Pennsylvania and Hickory Avenues. For further information contact Dave Webb at 410-569-0107.

Saturday, August 26

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Delaware Coast. Special trip in search of rare shorebirds, Curlew Sandpiper possible. Minimal walking involved. Telescopes useful. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Bombay Hook. For further information, contact the leader, Gene Scarpulla at 410-821-0575

Sunday, August 27

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Dam. Thousands of terns and swallows often congregate here towards the end of August in preparation for fall migration. Rick Blom will lead the search for such regular rarities as Black Tern, Common Tern, and Cliff Swallow. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Fisherman's Park. For further information contact Dave Webb at 410-569-0107.

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The copy deadline for the September/October issue of the Yellowthroat is August 1 for chapter activities and August 5 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for September through November to:

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Please send all other information to the editor:

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